

Rope Descent Systems

WAC 296-878-200

Rule

WAC 296-878-20005

Select appropriate rope descent systems

You must

- Make sure the rope descent system is designed, used, and maintained according to:
 - ANSI/IWCA 1-14.1-2001
 - The manufacturer's instructions
- Make sure the rope descent system has been manufactured and is intended to be used for *window cleaning*.



Note:

Equipment that is designed or labeled for recreational use or rescue use only is prohibited for use in window-cleaning operations.

You must

- Make sure the rope descent system components are compatible and have a minimum tensile strength of 5,000 pounds.
 - This doesn't apply to the seatboard.
- Make sure the rope descent system has specific use instructions for each component.

Rope Descent
Systems



Rope Descent Systems

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Rule

WAC 296-878-20010

Safely use rope descent systems

You must

- (1) Make sure workers use extreme care when using rope descent equipment around electrical service, heat sources, and turbulent areas, such as air vents.
- (2) Connect the seatboard or boatswain's chair to the descent device with a manual or auto locking carabiner.
- (3) Make sure workers are positioned in the seatboard or boatswain's chair before being suspended.
- (4) Make sure workers don't reach more than 6 feet in any direction as measured from a centerline straight down from where the suspension rope bears on the building.
- (5) Make sure workers don't descend rapidly, swing excessively, or stop suddenly.
- (6) Make sure that, in addition to the suspended worker, there is one other person at the jobsite who is skilled in using the rope descent system and rescue procedures.
- (7) Make sure you don't exceed a 300-foot height of descent as measured from grade or building setback.
- (8) Make sure your site-specific service plan addresses the following hazards for descents over 130 feet as measured from grade or building setback:
 - Sudden weather changes, such as wind gusts, micro bursts, or tunneling wind currents
 - Inability of the rope descent system to function without using excessive force
 - Workers suspended for long periods of time
 - Rerigging and movement of main suspension and safety lines

—Continued—

Rope Descent Systems

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Rule

Rope Descent
Systems



WAC 296-878-20010 (Continued)

You must

- (9) Stabilize workers suspended from a rope descent system whenever the descent is higher than 130 feet, as measured from grade or building setback.
- (10) Prohibit workers from working when wind speed makes any stabilization equipment ineffective.



Note:

- Provisions for stabilizing workers may include:
 - Continuous stabilization, such as mullion tracks
 - Intermittent stabilization, such as detent pins/buttons
 - Work station stabilization, such as suction cups

WAC 296-878-20015

Safely use rope descent devices

You must

- (1) Make sure the rated capacity or the maximum intended load, whichever is less, isn't exceeded.
- (2) Make sure the descent device manufacturer's specifications for rope diameter and construction are followed.
- (3) Make sure the rope is rigged through the descent device for a controlled rate of descent.
- (4) Make sure the attachment point on the descent device is one piece with no gates or openings.
- (5) Make sure the descent device will remain stationary when positive action is taken.